

Warren Commission Lawyer

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The most outspoken defender of the Warren Commission's inquiry into President Kennedy's assassination said yesterday that it should be reopened.

David W. Belin, who served as a staff lawyer on the Warren Commission and more recently as executive director of the Rockefeller Commission, called on Congress to order a thorough new investigation in light of widespread skepticism about the Warren Commission's work and the withholding of evidence from it by government officials and agencies.

The Central Intelligence Agency, the FBI and the late Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy himself, Belin protested in a public statement, all failed to disclose to the Warren Commission evidence concerning plots to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Belin, a Des Moines attorney, also pointed out that the FBI has recently admitted its failure to disclose evidence of threats made to the FBI by Lee Harvey Oswald several days before the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of the President in Dallas.

Speaking out on the 12th anniversary of the murder, Belin maintained that a new inquiry would reach the same central conclusion that Oswald "killed both President Kennedy and (Dallas Police) Officer (J.D.) Tippit," but he said a fresh investigation might also shed additional light "on what motivated Oswald."

Belin voiced doubt that a reopening of the investigation so many years after the assassination "would disclose

the existence of any foreign conspiracy," but he did not rule out that possibility.

Although the Warren Commission found no credible evidence of any foreign conspiracy, he pointed out, "the Warren Commission did not have any information concerning CIA assassination plans directed against Fidel Castro and possible ramifications of such plans."

In the past, Belin has resisted suggestions that the investigation be reopened, on the grounds that some witnesses have died and the recollections of others are not

likely to be as accurate now as they were in 1964. Despite that, he said he felt a fresh, objective and independent inquiry would "greatly contribute toward a rebirth of confidence and trust in government."

Belin remained silent about the relevance of CIA assassination scheming turned up by the Rockefeller Commission earlier this year because of the secrecy imposed by the administration, but the Senate intelligence committee last week released an even broader study of CIA murder attempts and con-

spiracies.

The Senate report showed that the CIA and to a lesser extent the FBI and Attorney General Kennedy were all aware of some of the efforts to kill Castro when the Warren Commission asked for any information bearing on whether the ostensibly pro-Castro Oswald might have been part of a conspiracy.

Belin also called for release by the CIA—as well as by the National Archives—of all information it has on Oswald and on the Kennedy assassination. Included in the archives documents are the

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Asks Reopening of Probe

autopsy photographs and X rays of President Kennedy, which the Warren Commission decided to suppress because, Belin said, of "the personal family desires of the Kennedy family." He called this "perhaps the worst mistake made by the commission."

Belin said he felt reopening the Warren inquiry would serve to refute "the most extreme and vocal assassination critics," who, he charged, have deliberately misrepresented the overall record of evidence that the commission had before it.

Finally, Belin asked in his statement for a review by the National News Council or some similar forum of the news media's continuing coverage of President Kennedy's assassination.

In any case, he maintained that a reopening of the Warren investigation itself would show how the public can at times "be misled by sensationalism, demagoguery and deliberate misrepresentation of the overall record," especially when there is insufficient public knowledge of the record.

The disclosures of the Senate intelligence committee in the past week would also appear to give the Warren Commission critics something to complain about. FBI Deputy Associate Director James B. Adams acknowledged at a Senate hearing Wednesday that the FBI submitted secret reports on seven Warren Commission critics to the Johnson White House in 1966 at the request of then-White House aide Marvin Watson.

Included in the FBI packet, Adams acknowledged, was traffic record information and



DAVID W. BELIN
...reverses position

photographs of at least one of the critics in the course of "sexual activity."